



THE ASSAM GAZETTE

অসাধাৰণ

EXTRAORDINARY

প্রাপ্ত কর্তৃত্বৰ দ্বাৰা প্ৰকাশিত

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY

নং 22 দিশপুৰ, বুধবাৰ, ৮ জানুৱাৰী, 2025, 18 পুহু, 1946 (শক)

No. 22 Dispur, Wednesday, 8th January, 2025, 18th Pausa, 1946 (S. E.)

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENTNOTIFICATION

The 30th December, 2024

No. E-400627/50.- In the interest of public service and in order to recognize the yeoman services rendered by Birubala Rabha, a renowned social reformer, who left for her heavenly abode on 13th May, 2024, the Governor of Assam is pleased to declare that henceforth, the **13th day of May** every year will be observed as the '**Day against Superstitious Beliefs**' in Assam.

The following illustrative Guidelines are laid down to commemorate the day in a befitting manner:

1. Objective:

The objective for commemoration of the day is to create awareness against superstitious beliefs harmful to the society and to promote scientific literacy, rational thinking and critical decision-making through a coordinated approach.

2. Roles and Responsibilities of various Departments:**2.1 School Education Department and Higher Education Department:**Awareness Programmes in Schools and Colleges:

The Department will hold specific events in various educational institutions on the day. The events may preferably be conducted during the Morning Assembly and be adjusted to the first period of that School-day, class-wise. The events may consist of lectures, debates, essay competitions, poster-making contests etc. focusing on topics of scientific and rational thinking.

Workshops and Seminars:

The Department may also organize workshops and seminars in higher educational institutions on topics relevant to the occasion. The Department will also facilitate interactive sessions for the students and the community.

Public Awareness Campaigns:

Involvement of students in community outreach programmes aimed at educating the public about the harmful effects of superstitions and promoting scientific reasoning will be encouraged.

2.2 Health and Family Welfare Department:**Content on Health-related Superstitions and Awareness Campaigns:**

The Department will develop and disseminate information on common health-related superstitious beliefs prevalent in the society utilizing mass media channels.

2.3 Panchayat & Rural Development Department:**Special Gram Sabha on 13th May:**

The Department will organize Special Gram Sabhas in every Gram Panchayat of the State on the assigned day and invite doctors/ educationists/ representatives of Science Societies/ Social Workers etc. of the locality to highlight issues relating to harmful effects of superstitious beliefs. Places and localities witnessing incidences of witch hunting in the past should be areas of special focus.

2.4 Women & Child Development Department:

The Women & Child Development Department, in collaboration with NGOs, CBOs and other community-based groups working in the field, will organize awareness meetings and campaigns as below.

1. Programmes will be organized at the district level, ICDS Project level and Anganwadi Centre level. Such events will focus on the harmful impacts of superstitious beliefs, especially on women and children.
2. People working against superstitious beliefs will be felicitated in such events.
3. The Department will develop materials like brochures, posters, and videos on specific issues.

2.5 Science & Technology Department:

The Department with the help of ASTE Council is already implementing various activities related to drive against superstitious beliefs across the State through its outreach network. To commemorate the “Day against Superstitious Beliefs”, activities shall be actively carried out by Aryabhatta Science Centres spread across 219 blocks of the State besides relevant institutions and eco-clubs to spread the message of scientific and rational thinking.

2.6 Other Departments:

All other Departments will also take steps to create awareness against superstitious beliefs, as may be relevant to them.

3. Documentation:

Efforts will be made by the respective Departments to document activities for future reference and planning.

MUKESH CHANDRA SAHU,
Principal Secretary to the Government of Assam,
Women and Child Development Department.